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Friendly facilitator

JMU worker wins Employee of the Year award for continued devotion to university

Tristan Lorei

CULTURE
12

CONTENTIOUS PAST

Use of blackface decreases on campus over the years, however recent publicity of Virginia's past sparks controversy

NEWS
4

BEST OF THE 'BURG WINNERS: CHECK OUT THE SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

Biases in the workplace cultivate underrepresentation of females in leadership roles

OPINION
8

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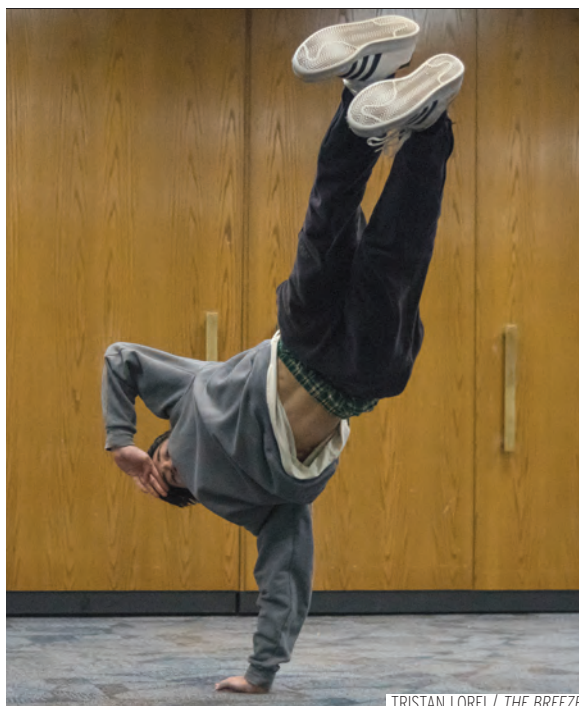
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INJECTING KNOWLEDGE

Nursing students to meet with members of Congress to discuss importance of vaccinations

NEWS

6



TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

TAKE A BREAK

JMU breakdancing crew, Kinetix, revives lost art through dying form of dance

CULTURE

13



BREEZE FILE PHOTO

BUILDING BLOCKS

Men's tennis' quick development of young players sets up strong foundation for the future

SPORTS

16

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The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

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Madison College students were pictured in blackface in the 1967 Bluestone yearbook with the caption "remember when."

In the 1981 Bluestone yearbook, an individual was depicted as a hostess wearing blackface for a Halloween party.

The evolution of blackface

Over the years, the use of blackface has decreased but hasn't disappeared and because of recent events, blackface has made its way back into the spotlight in Virginia and even the JMU community

By **KATELYN WALTEMYER**
The Breeze

Blackface can be traced back to the early 1800s, when racism was embedded in American culture. Thomas Rice, who's known as the "father of minstrelsy," created the infamous blackface character Jim Crow in 1830. Minstrelsy gained popularity soon after, and by the 1840s, dozens of stereotypes of African-Americans had been instilled in American society — a reality that's still affecting people of color today.

The impacts of these acts influenced the college experience across the nation, including Madison College — now known as JMU. As shown by the Virginia lawmakers who recently apologized for wearing blackface in college, the issue is rooted deep in the Commonwealth.

The first documentation of blackface on Madison College's campus can be traced back as early as 1912 when its Schoolma'am Yearbook published the "Shendo Land" song, which was sung at commencement that year, according to Margaret Mulrooney, a historian and the associate vice provost for university programs. The song was known to be performed by people wearing blackface, and it used specific language to mock people of color. A few years later in the 1917 edition of the Schoolma'am, one of the opening spreads included a photograph and itinerary of a student-led minstrel show called "A Dark Night at the Normal."

Minstrelsy was an influential part of society and wasn't only accepted, but encouraged. The Bluestone printed a photo in 1954 of three individuals dressed in blackface participating in the "Senior 'Plantation Party' Offers Traditional Southern Hospitality" minstrel show.

According to Mulrooney, the heart of racist behavior, then and now, stems from the many Americans who were against desegregation in

the '60s.

"One day you wake up and you have to share the bathroom with black people," Mulrooney said. "The signs are gone. The white and the colored signs are just gone. It doesn't mean that you have changed, it just means the sign is gone."

Executive Order 10925, which established affirmative action, was signed into law in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, requiring employers and educational institutions to not discriminate against applicants by their race, color, religion or national origin. This helped



Sigma Kappa members dressed in blackface with a girl in a "stew pot" in Bluestone's 1966 yearbook.

of these changes. According to Johnson, she found her time at JMU to be "enlightening," but societal norms ruled the campus at that time, creating a drastic racial cliché on campus.

"People were not really in the position to really learn somebody else," Johnson said.

"Whites stayed with whites. Blacks stayed with blacks. You really didn't learn [about] each other so I just thought that they, for the most part, were not able to move forward."

There came a time when some people believed there needed to be more African-Americans

represented at JMU, while others believed people should be admitted and hired based on their merit, not their skin color.

During this time, African-American dances were performed on campus and according to the archive in The "Mad" '70s, students "enjoyed" it. But out of the 1,347 students

enrolled in Madison College at that time, only 10 were African-American. According to Mulrooney, even though Ronald Carrier, JMU's fourth president, spearheaded the desegregation process at Madison College, it, along with every other academic institution in Virginia, was "out of line" with federal mandates and regulations of desegregation from 1954-78. It wasn't until after David Tatel, the Virginia Director for the Office for Civil Rights in 1977, sent a letter to Virginia Gov. Mills Godwin that change ensued. Tatel stated that Virginia "did not meet important desegregation requirements and have failed to achieve significant progress toward higher education desegregation."

In order to increase diversity on campus, Carrier established the university's Black Student Alliance soon after his inauguration and supported Delta Sigma Theta, a service sorority on campus that introduced a "Black Emphasis Week."

However, the '80s became a time of resistance in the U.S. In the 1981 Bluestone yearbook, a student was photographed sporting blackface at a campus event. In the '83 yearbook, another student was depicted hoisting a Confederate flag into the air and gave "rebel yells" at a Southern rock concert, and in the 1987 edition, another student was shown wearing blackface as part of a costume at a Halloween party.

According to Mulrooney, minstrelsy persisted on college campuses and other public spaces into the '80s. Many people didn't want to see change, which is why Mulrooney wasn't surprised when she discovered that Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring admitted to wearing blackface in 1980 after she saw the photo of two individuals wearing racist garb in Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam's medical school yearbook from 1984.

“You see minstrelsy cropping up in different places as well as more discriminatory behaviors and actions as a way of demeaning black people and affirming whiteness,” Mulrooney said.

Even though the use of blackface was diminishing, it wasn’t uncommon to find people wearing blackface at parties or other underground events in the ’80s.

The number of enrolled African-American students jumped from 30 in 1976 to 63 in 1980. The university attributed this to its affirmative action program that focused on recruiting students of color. Changes in society’s perspective of race were made evident in the ’90s; at JMU, The Breeze published an article stating that the African-American studies minor may reappear in 1992. The minor was later re-introduced to campus, and it was renamed to African, African-American and diaspora studies over the past year.

Incidents involving blackface haven’t gone away. Last semester, a former adjunct professor at JMU dressed up as “Urethra Franklin” and wore blackface. Even though he wasn’t teaching at the time of the incident, the university officially cut ties with him. More recently, after Northam and Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring admitted to the public that they’d donned blackface in the past, JMU President Jonathan Alger sent out a campus-wide email addressing the community.

“James Madison University is firmly committed to a welcoming, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for individuals of all backgrounds,” Alger said. “Messages that condone racism, violence or hatred are antithetical to our mission and values.”

Senior Sakira Coleman created the “Unheard Voices” program at JMU her freshman year and led an event hosted by Women of Color called “Speak Up” last semester, just days after the former JMU professor blackface incident. The health communications major believes that to move forward, people have to understand the past.

“The point that I always bring up is people of color don’t get to take their skin off,” Coleman said. “They don’t get to change the color of their skin. They don’t get to scrub it away at the end of the day. We have to live with these consequences. We are constantly living with consequences, whether that’s mass incarceration, police brutality, being profiled, being seen as inferior in the classroom.”

While the U.S. has progressed significantly in regard to equality since the civil rights movement, African-American students aren’t viewed as equals by everyone. According to Coleman, she’s had several instances at JMU where she was viewed as inferior by group members while working on class projects. Coleman has had to talk to several professors over the years at JMU to confront the issues when they arise.

Coleman has also met people at JMU who “hadn’t met a black person before.” Because of this, she values education in regard to black history, from the good to the bad.

“Racism, microaggressions, they are constant unless you are intentionally working to pull back the history of it,” Coleman said. “You can’t forget the history of it or it’s bound to repeat itself”

As a college student, Coleman has seen people wearing blackface at other Virginia universities in the past as well as other racist behaviors. In January, a female was awarded the “blackest white girl you’ll ever meet” award at an Alpha Phi semi-formal at Old Dominion University. To Coleman, it wasn’t a surprise to see these behaviors. She believes people don’t realize the consequences when it comes to stereotyping.

Much like Mulrooney, Coleman and many of her peers believe education about the past is the only way the community can move forward. A common theme, however, is that few or none non-African-Americans attend events such as “Speak Up.”

“It’s redundant when we’re talking about police brutality or blackface but it’s only black people in the room,” Coleman said. “We are in our own bubble, and I think that needs to change.”

While it’s undeniable that strides have been made to create equality, Johnson believes there’s still plenty of progress to be made in the U.S.

“We have a ways to go on the one hand ... I believe we have to look at the context,” Johnson said. “Watch the actions of the person because their actions let you know who they are and what they really think of you as a person and ... your race. Don’t go by what people say, go by what they do.”

CONTACT Katelyn Waltemyer at breeze@jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



COURTESY OF ABIGAIL THIBEAULT

The most recently documented blackface incident in Harrisonburg took place in November when Tim Richardson, a former JMU adjunct professor, donned the makeup at a party.



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Immunization conversation

Nursing students to advocate for childhood vaccination programs on Capitol Hill as part of Shot@Life summit

By **MITCHELL SASSER**
The Breeze

Shot@Life, an organization dedicated to ensuring children around the world have access to lifesaving vaccines, will have its eighth annual Champion Summit Feb. 25-27. Four JMU students and their adviser will be in attendance in Washington, D.C., with over 100 grassroots advocates to meet with members of Congress and share their knowledge on global childhood immunization programs and the importance of vaccinations.

Senior nursing major Nellie Young is one of the students selected to attend the event. This will be her first time at the Champion Summit, and even though she says it's going to be a "little scary" and "intimidating" to talk with members of Congress about these issues, the opportunity to influence legislators about the importance of vaccines is not one she was ready to pass up.

"One of my main goals is just to make sure

that all of our legislators in Congress are all educated with the facts about vaccines," Young said. "I think sometimes there is a lot of gray area around this, so I want to get the most accurate information and make sure that can get to our legislators so that they can make informed decisions."

Maureen MacLeod, a senior nursing major and president of Nursing Students Without Borders, will be attending Shot@Life for the second time. Last year, she met someone who had polio, showing her how much of an impact these summits can have.

"I was able to meet nurse practitioners, pharmacist students, political advocates, everyone from different areas of the healthcare field that really had their different opinions on how this affects them," MacLeod said. "So I'm hoping I can bring what I learned last year into this year and share it with my peers who are attending. Right now, it's really important with the measles outbreak in New York and all over."

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Tammy Kiser (left) and Nellie Young will both attend the Shot@Life summit.

HEATHER ECKSTINE / THE BREEZE

MacLeod was amazed to realize that people from 35 different states came to last year's Champion Summit. For her, it showed people are getting the message about the necessity of vaccines.

It was necessary for the NSWB students to complete a training session before becoming eligible to attend the summit. Eight students were selected to attend the event, but only four could make space in their schedules. Tammy Kiser, an assistant professor of nursing and the adviser for JMU NSWB, will be attending the event alongside the students.

"This year, I'm interested to see what else will be required to actually completely eradicate polio," Kiser said. "I'm also interested to see what their plan is for addressing the measles

outbreak that we are having in the United States and around the world."

Only about 125 people from around the U.S. are accepted to attend the event, according to Kiser. She says she's proud of the student advocates because they all share a vision of what global immunization programs can offer to those who need it the most.

"The common goal is that we want to get children immunized and give them a shot at life," Kiser said. "I think that is the best part of it."

CONTACT Mitchell Sasser at sasserp@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

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'Cause I'm a boss

Females in leadership positions aren't taken seriously in the workplace

Women in power who resemble masculine traits are often seen as bossy by their male counterparts as part of a stigma taught in childhood years.

DIANA WITT | couldn't help but wonder



From businesses to Congress, a trend is clear—women are underrepresented in leadership roles. Women are in many cases no less qualified, but gender bias and internalized misogyny prevent women from adequate representation in leadership. Career men and women should raise awareness about gender bias in leadership and work to end the negative stigma surrounding female leaders.

A study by New York University professors Andrea Vial and Jaime Napier asked men and women to identify the traits of “ideal leaders” and other qualities that would be essential to the success of a leader. Vial and Napier’s research showed that both men and women appreciated the values of agency, assertiveness and competency, which are considered masculine traits under traditional gender roles. Feminine traits, like empathy and intuition, were viewed as favorable additions, but not essential to leadership. A study from Skyline Group International found that the most effective leaders actually balance masculine and feminine traits.

While — stereotypically — women are expected to be gentle and nurturing, they’re able to exemplify masculine traits. However, women who embody masculine traits “too strongly” are labeled as bossy. Women in leadership positions are twice as likely to be called bossy than their male counterparts. This stigma is ingrained in children at a young age, with school-age girls worrying more about being identified as bossy. In the classroom setting, girls are called on less and interrupted more. From elementary to high school, girls also experience a decline in self-esteem that’s 3.5 times larger than boys’.

Women in the workplace are also more likely to be viewed as incompetent if they have children. Men who have children are assumed not to be the primary caregiver because it’s not a traditional masculine role. In the lens of stereotypes, mothers can’t be serious professionals. They’re too conflicted to be committed to both their families and their careers.

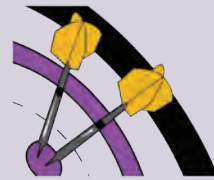
The dilemma facing female leaders is that in order to be respected as a leader, women must adopt masculine traits, yet women who possess these values are perceived negatively. Legally, gender discrimination is disallowed, but the ingrained patriarchal ideals of society bleed into the workplace.

Due to the underrepresentation of women in leadership, men have gained an advantage in that powerful positions are already affiliated with them. Unconscious bias still exists, despite the progress that’s been made toward equality. In a Google Image search for the word “doctor,” 75 percent of the images are male.

More representation of women would dissolve some of the automatic association of men with assertive and commanding attributes. The purpose of a representative government is undermined when nearly half of the population is unrepresented. Women should be allowed more opportunity to lead confidently without being dismissed.

These biases are etched into society, but are entirely socially constructed. Abandoning the typical associations of what’s masculine and feminine would encourage female leadership and promote female representation in businesses and government. In 2019, the gender binary is antiquated and unnecessary; gender has become less rigid and more fluid. Gender stereotypes are a disservice to all leaders, preventing opportunities independent of stereotype expectations.

Diana Witt is a freshman theatre major. Contact Diana at wittdr@dukes.jmu.edu.



DARTS & PATS

Want to praise someone or get something off your chest? Darts & Pats is the place to do it. Submit your own at breezejmu.org.

A **“thank-you-so-much”** pat to the guys for helping me at Walmart. I’ve lived in the Valley all my life and I’m grateful for their kindness and respect.

From a local disabled older lady.

A **“stay-the-heck-away-from-me”** dart to all the people at JMU with the JMFlu. I really can’t afford to get sick with all these exams and projects these next few weeks.

From a germaphobe who fears the epidemic spreading in the dorms.

A **“learn-how-to-drive”** dart to the driver of the red Subaru who almost hit me in the Grace Street parking deck Sunday.

From a commuter who doesn’t appreciate people who pretend to be racecar drivers in our school parking decks. Chill, guys.

A **“please-come-faster”** dart to spring break.

From a student who needs to go home, chill on their couch and do absolutely nothing.

Editorial Policies

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SAMANTHA LINCZYC / THE BREEZE

Feeling plant-tastic

Everyone should consider switching to a vegan diet

MADDY PIOVANO | contributing columnist



diet. They revealed The Greenprint Project sweepstakes on Jan. 30, encouraging fans to pledge to eat a plant-based meal at least once a day.

By making this pledge, fans are entered in a sweepstakes to win concert tickets for life. Their actions are promoting veganism and empowering the community. This initiative encourages people to try veganism, which I believe is the ideal diet for all humankind.

I don't look down on non-vegans, nor do I think I'm a better person because I live a vegan lifestyle. I do, however, aim to educate people on why I personally chose to go vegan. The first step in change is understanding.

In order to fully celebrate life, I choose to be vegan. I make a conscious choice each and every day to not consume animal products of any kind and refrain from purchasing items made from leather, suede, etc. I don't contribute to animal cruelty, and I feel at peace knowing my actions have a positive influence on the world. Not only am I taking a stand against animal cruelty, I'm also helping the environment.

According to The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "animal agriculture is responsible for 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, more than the combined exhaust from all transportation." Eating meat, dairy and eggs contributes to more environmental harm than every single vehicle in the world. Animal Agriculture is also responsible for 20 to 33 percent of all freshwater consumption in the world today, 45 percent of the Earth's total land and 91 percent of Amazon destruction. Imagine the positive things we could do if all of mankind went plant-based.

I assume most meat-eaters are unaware of these facts, and that's why people carry on in their normal routines. I hope that if people are aware of these facts, they'd do everything in their power to live a more sustainable lifestyle, starting with the transition to a vegan diet. I understand and admit that it's easier said than done, but with self control and motivation, anything is possible.

My journey into veganism began when I was just 11 years old. I told my family I was going vegetarian, but seeing as Thanksgiving was the next day, I quickly resorted back to eating meat. I was in the sixth grade at that time. I don't remember what caused me to declare that I was going vegetarian, but I tell you this story to make it clear that this seed was buried in my thoughts almost 10 years ago. I dug it up during

the summer of 2014. I was watching a YouTube video posted by beauty guru Siena Mirabella, who recommended the documentary "Earthlings." This documentary changed my perspective. For all 14 years of my life, I was conditioned to believe that animals like dogs and cats should be loved, while animals such as chickens, pigs and cows should be murdered for food. "Earthlings" challenged everything I ever knew about my personal code of ethics. Less than a month later, I began to slowly cut meat out of my diet. I eventually went fully vegetarian on Aug. 12, 2014. I made the ethical, environmental and healthy decision to stop eating meat. In January 2016 I became fully vegan, and have been ever since.

Veganism is one step further than vegetarianism. The vegan diet eliminates dairy, eggs and all other animal byproducts, in addition to meat and fish. Vegans also refrain from purchasing leather, suede, wool

and other animal-derived materials.

Not only is the vegan diet ideal for the environment, it's also the healthiest diet possible. Animal fat has a direct correlation to heart disease and cancer. This animal fat isn't only present in meat, it's also present in dairy. Eating strictly whole foods is the best for the body because it's a diet high in fiber and low in saturated fat.

I believe the vegan diet is ideal for all of humankind. It aligns with our human instincts of compassion, equality and kindness. It's healthier and more sustainable than eating meat and dairy. It's greatly helping our environment.

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Maddy Piovano is a sophomore media arts and design major. Contact Maddy at piovanml@dukes.jmu.edu.



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PHOTOS BY TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

Man of the

Facilities management worker wins employee of the year after 22 years of his positive attitude and dedication to JMU



By **TRISTAN LOREI**
The Breeze

On his hands and knees, Dennis Dove peels back the cover of some contact cement tape and sticks it to the back of the cove base molding that lines the bottom of the walls in Madison Union. He applies pressure for a few seconds and then stands up, causing the keys attached to one of his belt loops to jingle.

"That's why you see a gap here, it's starting to shrink," Dove said using his hands to further illustrate what he was saying. "So, eventually ... I'll come back and replace it. This is just a quick fix for now."

Every day, Dove, a utilities trades technician for Facilities Management, comes to work in his button-up shirt with pens, glasses for "fine-tuning," a flashlight, notepad, screwdriver and circuit tester in his chest pocket and completes jobs like these.

His day begins by going through Madison Union and looking for problems. This could range anywhere from electrical work to replacing ceiling tiles, but for Dove, the job is much more than just the technical aspect — it's about the relationships as well.

Every room he walks into, someone stops to talk to him. With each new smiling face, Dove responds with an equally large smile, genuine question or even some small fact he remembers about them. Whatever the conversation may be, Dove listens attentively. One of the many

conversations he's had are with Ada Hale, assistant event scheduling coordinator for Madison Union.

"He takes the time to have a conversation with you," Hale said. "It's just natural for him. He's just authentic. He's genuine, he cares. In today's busy, crazy, get-it-done, goal-oriented, climb-that-ladder world, that can be overlooked by so many people. He's just a gem."

Moving upstairs to the next task, Dove pushes his large utility cart into the elevator, making the remaining space limited. It holds everything he may need, from drill bits to a small ladder. Upstairs, he finds small rips in the wallpaper. To fix them, he begins by placing a line of blue tape directly underneath the tear and then proceeds to spray a contact adhesive — the liquid equivalent to the tape he used before — behind the flaps of the tears.

While waiting a few moments for the adhesive to cure for a bit, he moves to the other side of the hallway and sprays the other tears. Then, coming back, he carefully pushes a paper roller he grabs from his cart against the wall to firmly stick the torn wallpaper down. Throughout all this, his radio periodically beeps and voices can be heard calling specific numbers that represent different people.

Dove's attitude and work ethic don't go unnoticed, as shown by the fact that he received University Union's employee of the year award this year. The award is normally given to staff members but David Barnes, the director of

University Unions, and a committee decided Dove was the most deserving.

"I am not aware of that happening a lot, where technically he is not our employee, and yet we selected him because he's just done so much for all of us," Barnes said. "But even more than us, he does so much for the space here and ... the entire community who uses our facilities and everything else."

Mark Cline, the assistant director for Madison Union and Festival, was one of the people who nominated Dove for the award. Cline has a standing work request with Facilities Management to do maintenance and repairs to the building and consequently works with Dove on a daily basis. He checks in every day for things that may have slipped past him, but according to Cline, that rarely happens.

"He's the kind of employee that everyone wants to have," Cline said. "He's self-directed, self-motivated, his overall goal is to catch things before they become a problem and to make sure that everything is the best it can possibly be for our guests."

Dove has worked in this field for almost his entire life. He graduated high school in 1973 on a Saturday and immediately began working the following Monday. With three summers' worth of prior experience, he began his career in commercial construction, working mostly in schools, colleges and businesses.

Through that job, he taught himself the electrical and plumbing knowledge that he

now knows. He came to JMU 22 years ago and has loved it ever since.

Dove appreciates this award greatly and says that it's something he never dreamed of. When it happened, he was left speechless.

"I didn't think they had to give me no award to make me think I was appreciated," Dove said, holding back tears. "It's probably the biggest accomplishment I'll get here — that I've ever got anywhere. I never expected nothing like that because, like I said, I come to do my job every day. I figure my paycheck is appreciation enough."

Throughout the day, Dove was sure to emphasize the importance of his coworkers. He explained how much he valued the help of the guys who work with him in the Facilities Management maintenance shop. He felt the award didn't put him above them at all, but rather, that he was just lucky enough to get noticed.

"I don't feel that I'm no better than all the other guys I work with," Dove said. "They're as good as I am, some of them, probably even better. It still don't make me feel like I'm any better than they are, we're all on the same playing field. It's just that my name got drawn out of the hat. That's kind of how I look at it."

CONTACT Tristan Lorei at loreitm@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.

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Thursday, February 21, 2019



TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

Break it down

JMU's Kinetix Breakdancing Crew keeps hip-hop culture alive while encouraging self-expression

By **BRITTANY BELL**
The Breeze

While passing the Quad, it may be strange to see a group of people playing hip-hop music and busting breakdancing moves on a linoleum pad — but for JMU's Kinetix Breakdance Crew, this is when their Quad sessions are in full swing. Whether they're showing off their windmills, headspins or the simple six-step, every member proudly displays their skills for others to enjoy.

Even though breakdancing is a fad that many left in the '90s, Kinetix Breakdance Crew keeps the hip-hop culture alive by teaching new members how to freestyle. Freestyle is a form of dancing in which the dancer can express themselves in any way they want without any specific structure for movement.

"The thing about breaking is you're creating your own style," James Shumaker, a junior computer information systems major and president of the club, said. "Breaking is so free that you just put everything you feel into movement. It essentially becomes your

own every time you go in."

Members of the club encourage everyone to try out breakdancing — commonly called b-boying — and join regardless of prior experience. One of the biggest things they stress is that no dancing experience is necessary. They want to create an environment in which members, old and new, feel accepted and encouraged to freely express themselves and learn more.

"It's really supportive, the worst thing you can do is nothing on any given day," Abby Wiegand, a sophomore music education major, said. "As long as you're putting in any sort of effort, they'll buy into that and feed off of it and encourage you."

Members of the club typically come together and teach each other what they know; there are several fundamentals to breakdancing that people can explore, such as top rock, footwork, freeze and power. While some members might be good at one style, others will know another. Breakdancers are constantly learning and teaching new tricks to each other.

see **BREAKDANCING**, page 15



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BREAKDANCING | JMU

dance crew supports members through love of dancing

from page 13

The club's executive members are confident the new direction they're taking will attract more people. So far, they've done several outreach events in the community to perform their skills and learn more moves. Last semester, they collaborated with a dancing group called Dancing With the Stars in Harrisonburg for a performance at Valley Mall to showcase their various b-boying styles. This past Sunday, they traveled to Washington, D.C., to take part in the B-Boy & B-Girl Boogaloo at the Hip-Hop Museum to dance and attend workshops.

A more casual approach the club uses for outreach is its Quad sessions. Members bring a linoleum mat onto the Quad, play music and freestyle for fun. The hope is that other JMU students will see them and become interested.

"A really good plus to it is that people who just walk around casually, they get to see us," Neisha Kitchrayotin, a junior health sciences major and vice president of the club, said. "We just want to be able to share with them what our passion is, what our expression is and if they're potentially interested at all, they're definitely free to come and join us any time."

Another part of the club's new initiative is their name change. Originally

called "JMU Breakdance Club," the new executive board decided to change the name to "Kinetix Breakdance Crew" to promote its positive vibes. They believe calling it a crew more accurately describes how much of a family everyone has become.

"Not only have we learned the culture of hip-hop and dance breaking, but we've also been brought together by this shared interest and the good vibes of this non-judgmental group, and just get together and hang out socially," Shumaker said. "We just love the good vibes we share."

The culture of breakdancing and hip-hop is one of self-expression, and JMU's Kinetix Breakdance Crew encourages people to be themselves and join a group that supports each other through the love of dancing. While the dancing may be difficult to pick up at first, they believe anyone can become a breaker if they put practice and work into it.

"We want to tell the whole Harrisonburg community, or just JMU, is that we don't bite," Kitchrayotin said. "We're not that intimidating, and even though the dance itself, it will be vigorous, but it will be fun."

CONTACT Brittany Bell at bellbl@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.



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JMU men's tennis' foundation built toward sustained success

By **NOAH ZIEGLER**
The Breeze

After four consecutive losing seasons, JMU men's tennis needed a wave of up-and-coming players to carry the program to competitive heights. While finding those players wasn't an easy task, head coach Steve Secord hit the jackpot with sophomore Alvaro Arce and junior Damon Roberts.

From 2012-16, the Dukes went 35-46 and never finished the year above .500 in CAA play. Enter Roberts, who in his first season at JMU won CAA Co-Rookie of the Year and helped the team finish 14-9 (3-1 CAA). Then came Arce, who won CAA Rookie of the Year in 2017-18 and was key in helping JMU to a 16-7 (4-3 CAA) record. The team is searching to make it to the CAA semifinals or beyond, but the young weapons are there at Secord's disposal.

This season, the Dukes have raced to a 6-2 start, and both Arce and Roberts have yet to lose in singles play. Arce has played as the No. 1 singles player twice this season, while Roberts is usually slotted as the No. 4 singles player. The core of Arce, Roberts and others have been critical in the hot start to the 2019 campaign.

Not every program can boast that a player has won conference rookie of the year in two straight seasons. It shows how well tennis players can develop at JMU and paves the way for the program to reach new heights. For Arce, though, the award came as a surprise.

"Honestly, I didn't expect to win it," Arce said. "That motivated me a lot to get better. I definitely want to get player of the year next year. It's going to be hard, but it motivates me a lot."

Arce thought a player from William & Mary was going to take the award, but when he was tabbed as the winner, he couldn't help but be happy about his accomplishment. The Tribe are one of the top tennis programs in the CAA, but winning the award showed that the gap is closing.

Roberts, on the other hand, felt as if he was playing some of his best tennis during his freshman season, helping him achieve the rookie of the year accolade. He went 14-8 in singles and 10-2 at the No. 1 and No. 2 positions, something that even veterans would have trouble accomplishing.

"Halfway through the spring season of freshman year, I switched my game up a little bit," Roberts said. "I started grinding a lot more and something just clicked. I hit a hot streak from the halfway point to the end of the season ... I had more confidence and was thinking a lot more positive."

see **TENNIS**, page 18



BREEZE FILE PHOTO

Arce was Second Team All-CAA his freshman year.



SAMANTHA LINCZYC / THE BREEZE

Taking chances

Freshman adjusts to college basketball and life away from native Canada

By **JAMES FARIS**
The Breeze

For many athletes, sometimes the biggest blessing is the blessing that wasn't. Michael Jordan was famously cut from varsity basketball his sophomore year of high school and went on to have a Hall of Fame NBA career.

JMU women's basketball freshman guard Eleanore Marciszewski had a similar experience at age nine, long before she was invited to try out for Team Canada and won a silver medal at the Canadian National Championship. The future four-star recruit was cut from the youth basketball team she tried out for while the coach's daughter made it. She responded by working with her dad — who she said had no prior background in basketball — in a local gym nearly every weekend with the goal of playing collegiately.

Marciszewski is no stranger to adversity. The Quebec native hasn't played much for JMU — the top team in the CAA, with a 20-4 (12-1 CAA) record — but has made the most of her opportunities at JMU when she's seen

the floor. She's made over half her shots and leads the team in 3-point percentage among those with at least 10 attempts.

"She's come in as a highly touted freshman, the No. 2 player in Canada, and it [didn't] go [her] way early," head coach Sean O'Regan said. "She could've transferred [after] a semester. She's plugging away in practice, on the scout team ... She understands when she makes mistakes, she's willing to learn."

Marciszewski said she "went into a dip" in the beginning of the season when she wasn't playing much. She was nearly 700 miles away from Dawson College, a vocational college she attended before JMU, and said she wasn't shooting well in practice. She made it clear that reconnecting with her family over winter break was the turning point in her season.

"[When I came back] I was like, 'You know what, I'm just going to give everything I have in practice. If the coaches saw how hard I'm playing, maybe they'll put me on the court,'" Marciszewski said. "Before, I was really scared of making mistakes. It was like, 'Oh my God, I cannot now make a mistake or I will not play.' I was like, 'You know what, I'm

gonna make mistakes and learn from them.'"

O'Regan said he saw a different mentality in Marciszewski after Christmas as she loosened up and stopped trying to play a perfect game. In her six games before winter break, Marciszewski went 4-of-10 from the floor. In the nine games since, she's 14-of-22 and 6-of-12 from behind the arc.

"If you're playing tight, you're going to be a much worse player," O'Regan said. "I think she can carry that confidence [gained in practice] over into a game. How well you play in practice gets you in a game, and how well you can play in a game keeps you in the game."

O'Regan described Marciszewski as an "extremely hard worker" who's "constantly asking for extra workouts." He said in late January that she watches full games of team film — not just her minutes — to get better. O'Regan said that he's going to give her more opportunities and allow her to play through mistakes so she can get more comfortable on the floor.

see **CANADA**, page 17

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Thursday, February 21, 2019

CANADA | 'Some people might've checked out, but she just stayed locked in and focused'

from page 16

"You're pushing somebody in the deep end, and they're gonna have to find a way to swim," O'Regan said. "That's what it's going to come down to. You're gonna play, and our team's going to support you, and you're going to play through whatever happens."

An inch or two can be the difference between an ugly shot and a highlight, as Marciszewski learned in her best outing of the season in an 82-30 blowout win over Elon. Marciszewski waited patiently in the right corner by the JMU bench as junior guard Kamiah Smalls whipped a cross-court pass to her. A strong contest from Elon freshman guard Kayla Liles altered the 3-point shot, which managed to bank in off the glass.

The stroke of fortune led to a career-high eight points in 13 minutes for Marciszewski. She thrived in a low-pressure environment with the game out of reach and continued a strong three-game stretch from Jan. 20-27 in which she totaled 20 points. The Dukes played in front of a season-high 3,648 fans that afternoon in an atmosphere that Marciszewski says drew her to JMU over the roughly 15 schools that offered her a scholarship.

"You walk around campus and they know women's basketball," Marciszewski said. "When you come to games, the crowd's crazy. You don't see that often for women's basketball."

Marciszewski said JMU's atmosphere and her relationships with her coaches — specifically her bond with assistant coach Ian Caskill — impacted her decision to choose JMU. The two connected speaking French, which Caskill

learned while playing professionally in France after graduating from JMU in '03.

According to Caskill, he first noticed Marciszewski at an AAU tournament in Washington, D.C., when he came down an escalator and heard a team conversing in French. He and O'Regan watched her play, began recruiting her and, two years later, Marciszewski was a Duke. Caskill's wife, Melanie, is a French instructor at JMU who keeps her door open for Marciszewski as a place she can comfortably unwind and speak French like at home.

"I told Eleanore any time she gets homesick or something, come talk to my wife, come have dinner," Ian said. "My first year in France, it was a complete culture shock. [There's] a lot of differences, way of life, language barrier, style of play basketball-wise. I told her the other day I'm very proud of her ... some people might've checked out, but she just stayed locked in and focused."

After the girl taller than all her peers wasn't chosen for the youth team in a curious case of nepotism, she learned she'd have to reach the top by outworking them. Marciszewski's relentless work ethic and drive to improve can be traced to her training sessions with her father as a nine-year-old. While the setting has changed — the gym in Quebec didn't have the Duke Dog logo sprawled across it — her mindset never has, which is why she's starting to break through.

CONTACT James Faris at farisja@dukes.jmu.edu. For more basketball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.



TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

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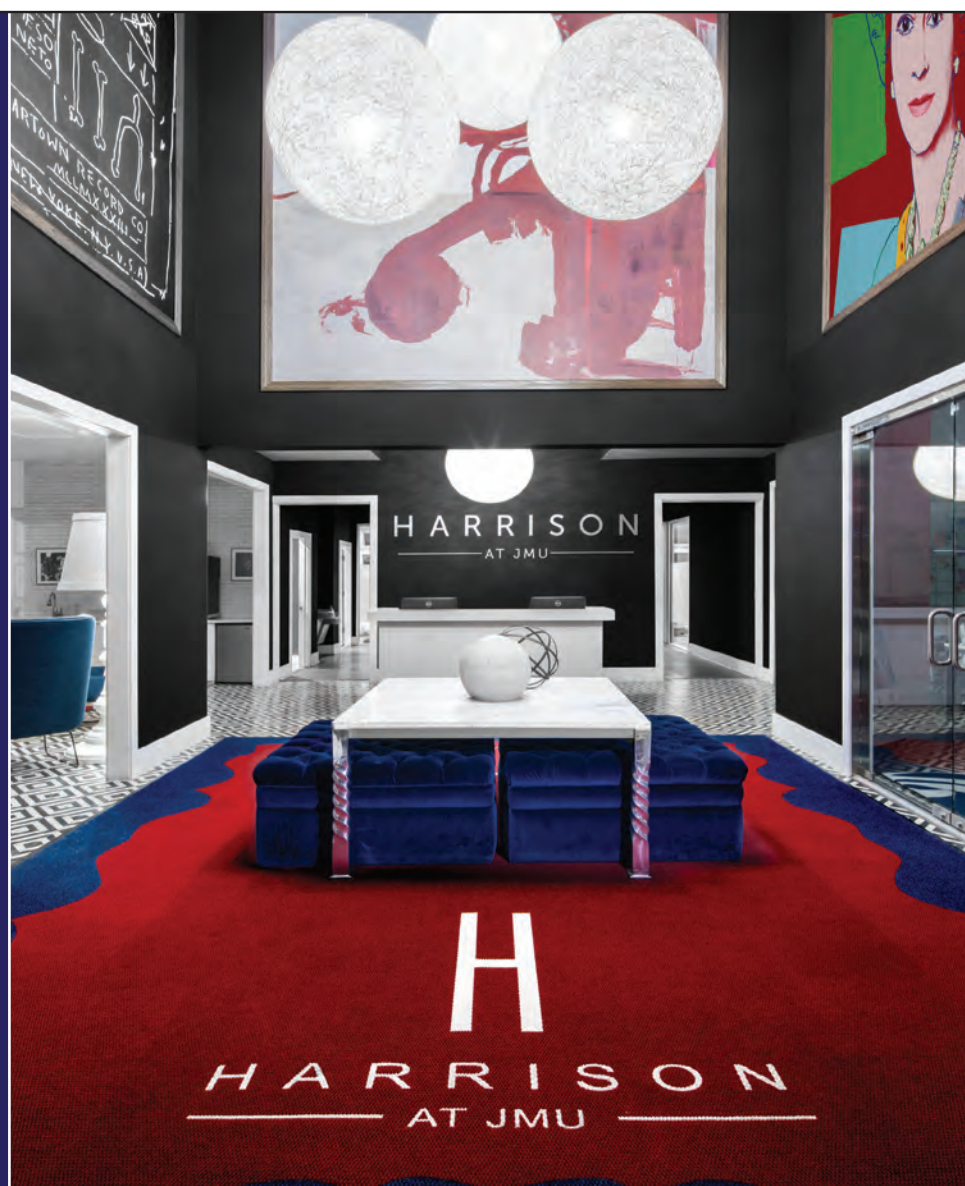
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BREEZE FILE PHOTO

In his third season with the Dukes, Roberts has yet to lose a singles match this year.

TENNIS | The Dukes are set to continue early season triumph as year progresses

from page 16

It's an honor that'll last a lifetime, something Roberts says he'll cherish when looking back on his collegiate tennis days. But for now, he knows he can't take anything for granted. Bringing trophies to JMU is what he wants to do, and he continues to work to reach that goal.

Not only do the players benefit from winning conference awards, but it makes recruiting players easier for the coaches. Any coach can say they can develop players into some of the best in the country, but when there are awards to prove it, it's hard to turn away from.

"We're really trying to bring in players that'll come in and start for us right away and make a big impact," assistant coach Jason Sinkoff said. "We're getting better every single year. We've had really good juniors and seniors in the last couple of years to set expectations and get the culture going the right way."

Having veterans on the team that help guide the younger players is important for the transition from prep tennis to the college level. Sinkoff noted that the team's captains, junior Paul Mendoza and senior Pierre Kohler, have done well in helping the underclassmen prepare for each match.

The Dukes have the luxury of multiple players capable of being a top singles player. From No. 1 to No. 6, JMU feels confident that each player can win the team a point. Secord, who's coaching his 27th season at JMU, wants to keep improving as each freshman class comes in.

"The margin between these guys is so small," Secord said. "It's good, and it helps with recruiting a lot ... We have Pierre graduating, we'd like to think that the guy coming in is going to be better than Pierre. It's tough shoes to fill, but each time somebody goes out, we're looking to elevate it."

The foundation for success has been laid off the court with recruiting and on the court with impressive play. The Dukes are hitting their stride with big wins over George Mason and Georgetown, but the team still has its eyes set on the conference championship.

"We're looking towards April," Roberts said. "We've had a good start to the season and we're all playing pretty well. I think this is the strongest team we've had in a while."

CONTACT Noah Ziegler at zieglenh@dukes.jmu.edu. For more tennis coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

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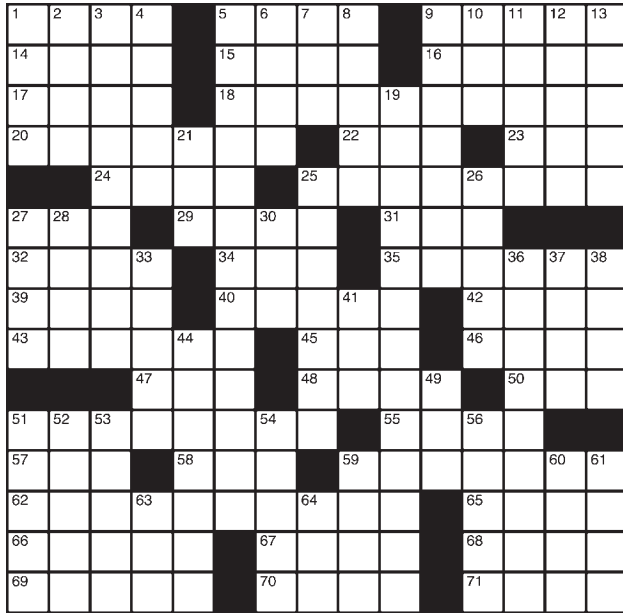
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 '90s-'00s Olympic soccer notable
5 Literary captain
9 Leaks slowly
14 Burn soother
15 Zippo
16 Computer text code
17 They're not loyal
18 Unyielding
20 Golfing group
22 Base for money
23 Swallowed
24 "Harry Potter" reporter —
Skeeter
25 Not much
27 Anthem
contraction
29 Blue, on the Danube
31 Noir hero
32 Lose oomph
34 Movie SFX
35 Purim heroine
39 Centers of attention
40 What unfixed malfunctions usually do
42 Flight-related prefix
43 "Burnt" color
45 Coastal bird
46 Sound of an angry exit
47 LSU conference
48 Chicago-style pizza chain, informally
50 Education org.
51 Started, as a conversation
55 Car dealer's abbr.
57 Acct. that may be rolled over
58 Half a numbers game
59 Seattle pro
62 Going back, in a way
65 Arch type
66 Often harmful bacteria
67 Basmati, for one
68 "What, will these hands be clean?": Lady Macbeth
69 Thick
70 "Futurama" creator Groening



By Peter A. Collins

2/21/19

DOWN

- 1 Roxie —, "Chicago" role
2 "There oughta be —"
3 Grand Prix, for one
4 Soccer superstar Lionel
5 Edible elephant, say
6 Fabled also-ran
7 Hubbub
8 Xhosa's language group
9 French holy women
10 Bilingual subj.
11 Grand display
12 Mary-in-mourning sculpture
13 Agreed (with)
19 Skillet dish with ham and peppers
21 Wagering shorthand
25 Supercharge, and a hint to what's literally hiding in the four longest Down answers

- 26 Take the role of
27 Does in
28 Morlock victims
30 Memorable time
33 Infomercial brand
36 FAQ spots
37 Q.E.D. word
38 Type of tomato
41 Spigoted server
44 Suit go-with
49 Fed. benefits agency
51 Located

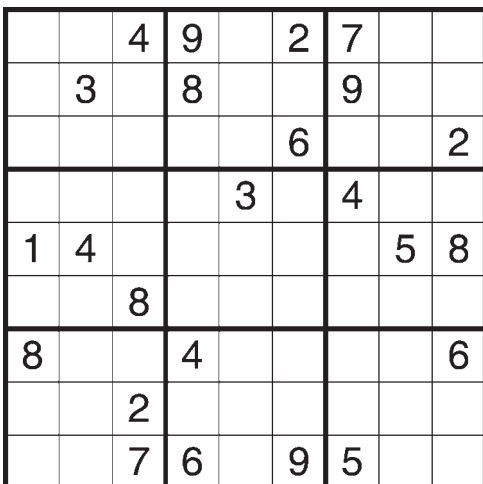
- 52 Jiffy
53 Hispanic penguin in "Happy Feet"
54 Render harmless
56 Lake Geneva river
59 Religious offshoot
60 Bawl
61 "Ol' Man River" composer
63 Raised trains
64 Through

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The Breeze
B

Thursday, February 21, 2019



Best of the 'burg





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Contents



4

Full results of Best of the 'Burg survey



6

JMU professors celebrated for successful teaching strategies



8

Tacos El Primo jumpstarts Harrisonburg's food truck era with authentic Mexican cuisine



10

Copper Beech selected as best off-campus housing complex for students



13

Ranking the top six types of pizza at Benny



14

Shenandoah National Park voted best day trip with 516 miles of trails and 60 mountain peaks



18

Media specialist Jenna Polk creates lasting impact on JMU community and student employees

Results

Coffee Greenberrys Coffee & Tea Co.

Pale Fire Brewing Co. Brewery

Restaurant deals Billy Jack's Shack

CrossKeys Vineyard Winery

Best place to take a date Local Chop & Grill House

Benny Sorrentino's Pizza

Food Truck Tacos El Primo

Kline's Dairy Bar Dessert

Day trip Shenandoah National Park / Skyline Drive

The Studio Haircut

Music venue The Golden Pony

Clementine Trivia night

Off-campus housing Copper Beech Townhomes

The Quad Best place to relax

JMU professor Kim DuVall, Roger Soenksen (tie)

E-Hall Best dining hall

JMU staff member Jenna Polk

Clothing boutique The Yellow Button

The Quad Best outdoors spot

Brunch The Little Grill Collective

Grilled cheese, buffalo
mash, omelets (tie)

Best on-campus dish

Car repair J&N Car Care, Precision Imports (tie)



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HEATHER ECKSTINE / THE BREEZE



COURTESY OF KIMBERLY DUVALL

Soenksen and DuVall were honored by Best of the 'Burg voters as the co-winners for the category of best professor at JMU.

'Honored and humbled'

Roger Soenksen of SMAD and psychology's Kimberly DuVall both value working directly with their students – and they've recognized it

By CARLEY WELCH
contributing writer

This year, Roger Soenksen and Kimberly DuVall, who have a combined 54 years at JMU, were voted the two best professors at the university by readers of The Breeze. Both Soenksen and DuVall adore JMU for many reasons, but the people they've met and connections they've made are what stand out most to them. They've each previously won awards in recognition of their teaching abilities.

Soenksen is a media arts and design professor and holds several advising roles. He came to JMU in 1976 when the university was still Madison College and is part of the last group of remaining faculty hired under the previous name. He came to the school as a debate coach before eventually teaching SMAD classes and advising. Soenksen said he initially came to Madison College because he felt this region was a "hotbed" for collegiate debate and there was a lot of support at the university for the debate program.

According to Soenksen, the student-centered focus of JMU is what he loves most about the university. While many other colleges have a heavy focus on their research programs instead of their undergraduate programs, Soenksen admires how JMU's focus is on undergraduate learning.

"Not everywhere do you have a desire of the faculty to work so closely with students," Soenksen said. "A lot of other institutions are focused on their research, working with master's or Ph.D. students, but here because we are still predominantly undergraduate, you're working with individuals who are still kind of finding their way."

Soenksen is passionate about teaching and said his favorite part about his job is interacting with his students. He said he likes to keep the material he teaches interesting by coming up with new ways to get his students engaged.

"The students keep me young. They keep me energized," Soenksen said. "They ask great questions, they keep you refreshed. That interaction is really a wonderful part of this particular job."

Briley Brind'Amour, a junior media arts and design major and JMU volleyball player, is one of Soenksen's students. Her favorite things about Soenksen are how dedicated he is to his students and his willingness to help them.

"He's willing to help no matter what and it's really comforting to approach him," Brind'Amour said. "He's really welcoming when you need help and very outwards. If he doesn't know how to help, then he will reach out to someone who could."

According to Brind'Amour, Soenksen makes sure his students understand the material taught in class, which she feels sets him apart from other professors. He never tries to make a student feel uncomfortable for asking a question.

While honored he received this award, Soenksen acknowledges that other faculty members are deserving as well. Soenksen said he believes this honor could go to a number of faculty and departments at JMU.

"When we brought it up in class, he kind of got red and didn't want to announce it, which shows he definitely earned it," Brind'Amour said. "He's not out here trying to win best teacher, he's out here really trying to help the students."



HEATHER ECKSTINE / THE BREEZE

Soenksen started working at JMU in 1976 when the school was still named Madison College.



DuVall also won the Best of the 'Burg award in 2017 and is a JMU graduate herself.

COURTESY OF KIMBERLY DUVALL

DuVall, a psychology professor and adviser, is in her 11th year of being a full-time professor at JMU. She graduated from JMU in 1983, obtained her master’s five years later and said she “bleeds purple.” Even though she loves teaching now, she said she never thought she’d teach when she was younger because she considers herself introverted and shy.

Prior to teaching, DuVall started out working in other psychology-related jobs, such as researching head injuries and evaluating people on death row. Once she actually got into the classroom, however, she said she was shocked to find she was good at it. DuVall enjoys teaching large classes, but she said her favorite part about her job is meeting one on one with her students and building relationships.

“After doing all of that and teaching part time here and there, I just fell in love with it,” DuVall said.

DuVall loves JMU for its friendly environment and, like Soenksen, the university’s focus on undergraduate education.

“Gosh, there are just so many [reasons] I love it here,” DuVall said. “People at JMU are just really friendly, like that holding the door thing.”

Senior psychology major Morgan Welch has been a student of DuVall’s for three years and is now her teaching assistant. Welch enjoys the way DuVall

teaches because she uses examples from her own life and applies them to the concepts the students are learning so that they can better comprehend them.

According to Welch, it’s DuVall’s personable attitude that sets her apart from other professors. Welch feels she can go to DuVall with any problem she may have.

“She is honestly the most genuine professor. She cares so much about each student individually, which I think is very unique about her,” Welch said. “She goes above and beyond for everyone and she’s also very personable, like she wants to get to know you as a person.”

Just like Soenksen, DuVall was honored and humbled to receive the award. She said she was surprised to find out she had won JMU’s best professor.

“I’m shocked. I’m always shocked,” DuVall said. “I won the Gen-Ed distinguished teacher of the year award this year and I was shocked. I was like, ‘What!’ I always feel like, ‘No, that’s not me. This is a mistake.’ But I’m really honored.”

CONTACT Carley Welch at welchcw@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

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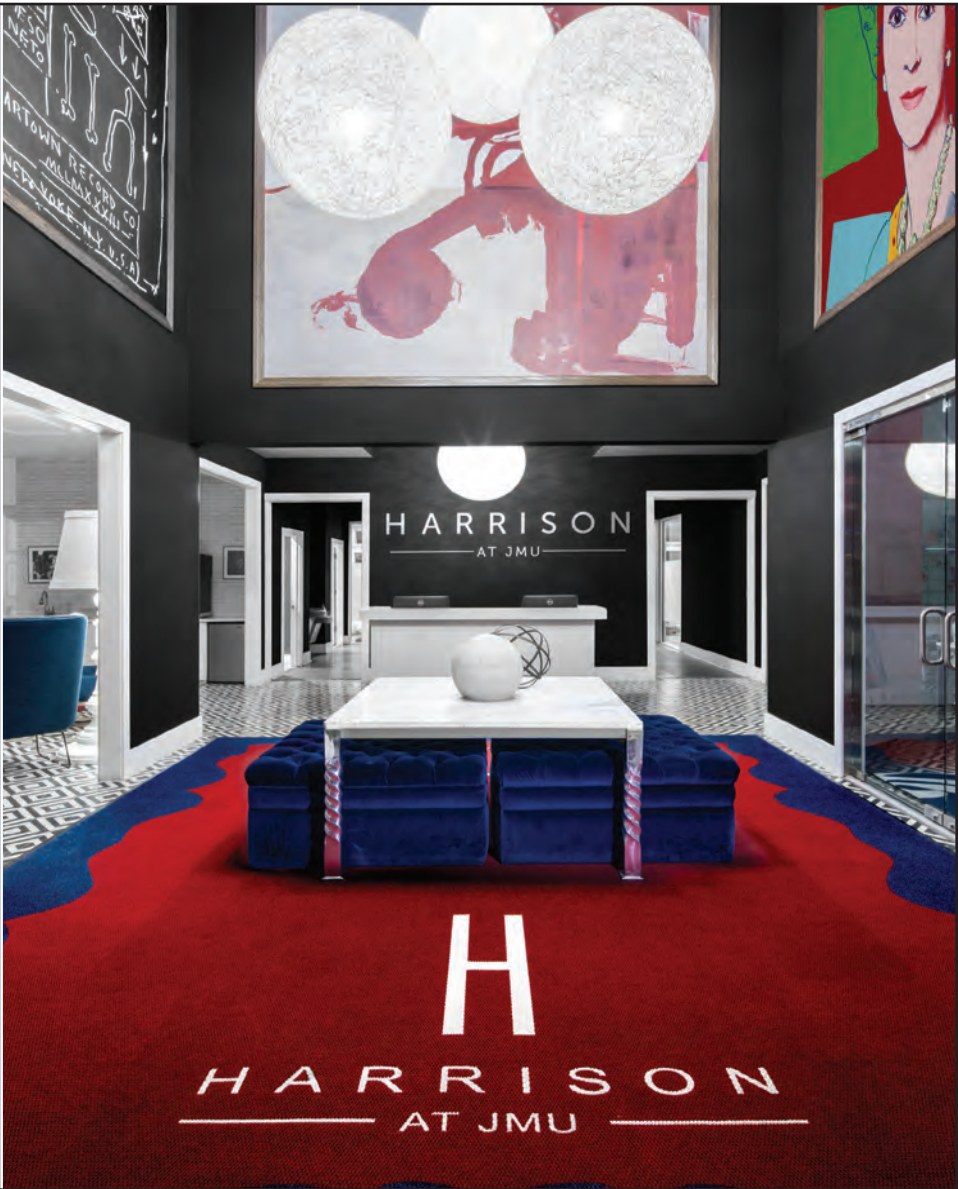
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Let's taco -bout it

Tacos El Primo brings an authentic taste of Mexico to Harrisonburg

By **TRACI RASDORF**
The Breeze

Tucked off to the side in a small parking lot at the corner of Dutch Mill Court and Reservoir Street sits a small blue food truck with a history.

Grilling fresh, made-to-order soft corn tortillas for the truck's first customer of the day, Veronica Avila, the owner of Tacos El Primo, and her employees delicately stuff each one with ripe vegetables and thick sauces. Savory smells of beef and chicken cooking on a flat top flow out the serving window and right under customers' noses.

Seven days a week, the Tacos El Primo crew whips up mild and spicy Mexican cuisine between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. With outdoor seating available and bright lights strewn about, Tacos El Primo invites its customers to sit down, relax and enjoy their meal.

Avila moved to Harrisonburg from Riverside, California, in 2005. She says that while she was born in California, her life is heavily rooted in Mexican culture. Growing up, her passion for cooking Mexican-style food with her family flourished. Once she moved, Avila and her partner at the time couldn't find the flavors they craved, so they decided to give Harrisonburg a little Mexican-inspired zest. In 2006, Tacos El Primo became Harrisonburg's first ever food truck.

"I lived in California pretty much all my life and that is something you find everywhere," Avila said. "It's so common that automatically when you think about eating out, you're like, 'Oh, let's hit this little truck,' and we missed

that. I felt like if I want to do something different or do something new, then it's going to be a truck. I feel like being a Mexican, I wanted to offer something that was real, authentic Mexican and that I knew how to cook well."

Avila decided to invest in a truck rather than a sit-down restaurant because at first, while she believed in her food, she wasn't sure if the business would thrive. If she had to shut it down, the loss of buying and selling a truck would be less than a building.

In Spanish, "primo" means cousin. Avila and her partner gave the truck this name because they wanted all customers to feel like they were a part of a family.

When the truck opened, Avila would usually switch up parking locations to cover a larger area for the convenience of her customers. Over time, she wanted to find a permanent spot so customers would become familiar with the truck and associate the area with its food. Avila also decided to keep Tacos El Primo open seven days a week and during the cold months because she knew some loyal customers would still come back for their favorite dish any day of the year.

"Even though sales drop, I mean dramatically, compared to any other season, you still have the faithful customers," Avila said. "I feel like it would be kind of a backstab not having it open because I'm not doing the same business that I do any other season. So as long as the business can pay bills and pay employees, I don't care if I don't make any profit during those times, it's just the fact that I know I'm satisfying my customers."



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PHOTOS BY TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

Tacos El Primo serves everything from tortas and tacos to burritos and quesadillas.

As the first food truck in the area, Tacos El Primo set the basis for this quick-service industry in the Shenandoah Valley. Now, food trucks have become a staple of Harrisonburg and there's a food truck festival held each year in which all the ticket proceeds go directly to Open Doors, a homeless shelter.

"The first time I went [to Tacos El Primo], I thought it was pretty great," Mush Robinson, a junior international affairs major, said. "I thought, 'I can't wait to go back,' it was so good."

Robinson likes to stick to the same tasty order each time she visits: beef tacos with cilantro and onions and a flavored Mexican soft drink called Jarritos. She feels that Tacos El Primo serves more meat in its tacos compared to other restaurants in the area.

Besides tacos, the truck serves burritos, quesadillas, tortas and tostadas. It was important to Avila to create menu items that

appealed to her meat-loving customers, but could also be made without any meat for her vegetarian customers. Tacos El Primo has six meat options: chicken, steak, Mexican sausage, spicy pork, fried pork and beef tongue. Other tortilla-stuffing toppings are rice, beans, lettuce, tomato, onion, jalapeños, cheese, salsa, sour cream, avocado and cilantro.

Avila understands that when one goes to a food truck, they want fast and cheap service while still receiving an appetizing meal. She would rather master five items while giving customers a wide variety of flavors and toppings than overwhelm them with 20 menu items that she would struggle to keep up with in a small kitchen.

Charlie Smith, a junior media arts and design major, visited the truck for the first time last semester and now often enjoys a bite to eat there with his friends. He finds

the service accommodating and quick for large groups of people. Smith likes to switch up his meal every once in a while, but his go-to is four chorizo tacos with jalapeños, cheese, sour cream and guacamole. To him, Tacos El Primo is among the best places in Harrisonburg to grab a taco.

"It's definitely closer to my heart than the others," Smith said. "Just because it's always a very welcoming atmosphere and I've got really great memories tied to the place."

Avila likes to build a relationship with her customers, and she and her employees will often memorize a returning customer's order. She's especially happy when JMU students bring their parents to the truck.

Avila also makes sure she and her employees always deliver a smile and engage with customers so they have a positive experience every time they come back. A motto they serve by is to never let any item go

out the window they wouldn't eat.

She hopes to add a delivery feature to the business in the future so customers can enjoy her food any time, anywhere. Avila is also thinking about extending the truck's hours until 2 a.m. during the summer nights. Avila is still taking some concerns about these changes into consideration, but she knows many customers in the area, particularly college students, would happily welcome them. She was thrilled to learn Tacos El Primo was voted one of the Best of the 'Burg.

"Honestly, it's an honor because I've been serving JMU students for so long," Avila said. "We have always embraced them and never take students for granted. It's pretty cool, you know, you feel like everything that you've done for so many years has paid off."

CONTACT Traci Rasdorf at rasdorf1@dukes.edu.

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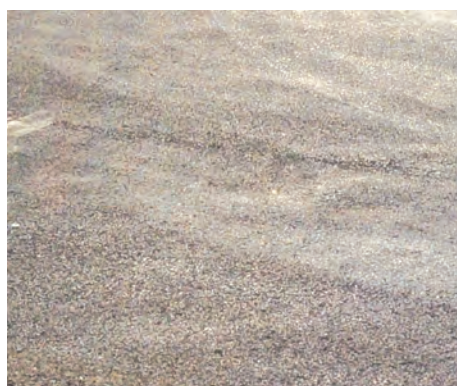


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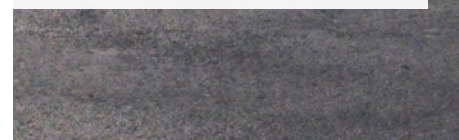
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Welcome home



Copper Beech wins residents over with amenities and community



BREEZE FILE PHOTO

Copper Beech won The Breeze's 2019 Best of the 'Burg's best place to live.

By JESSICA KLONARIS
contributing writer

When deciding to move off campus or from another university, the task of finding the best place to live can be challenging. Top concerns for students looking to live off-campus are cost and amenities, which is why Copper Beech Townhomes was voted the best place to live off campus in the 2019 Best of the 'Burg survey.

According to Audrey Antoniello, a senior communication studies major, Copper Beech has an abundance of amenities and spacious floor plans. Outside, residents have access to two large swimming pools, two basketball courts and a sand volleyball court that brings

the community together. In the clubhouse, residents can relax and enjoy a modern lounge area, kitchenette, computer lab, fitness center, tanning beds and a game room with a pool table.

Antoniello has lived in her Copper Beech townhome for two years and recommends it to every prospective resident she comes across. She said the community and residential life at Copper is "friendly and fun."

"The community here is awesome," Antoniello said. "People throw footballs on the grass areas, dog walkers always stop and chat and the pool is always a great time for residents to come together. I go to the gym almost everyday and I love using the tanning beds, and I often take advantage of the free coffee in the clubhouse."

In addition to the amenities, Copper Beech also has a variety of townhomes. Although utilities costs aren't included, townhomes come with cable and air conditioning and all residents have access to printing and computer use in the clubhouse. Several efforts were made to reach out to Copper Beech's regional manager for an interview; however, The Breeze never received a response.

"The main reason why I chose to live in Copper was the price," Paige Ridge, a senior communication sciences and disorders major and resident at Copper Beech, said. "You get so much space for a reasonable price, and there's always free food and coffee in the clubhouse. Maintenance is always quick to fix any problem,

and the groundskeepers always make sure that the area is clean and presentable."

Copper Beech brings in prospective residents by offering a thorough tour of the clubhouse, gym and a model home. The model home is open during regular business hours, and there's always an employee there to welcome and help prospective residents.

"I went to the clubhouse to get some information about Copper Beech and they sent someone from the office to give me a tour," Gage Waltner, a junior engineering major and resident at Copper, said. "They even gave me a free shirt."

CONTACT Jessica Klonaris at klonarjv@dukes.jmu.edu.



TOP: BREEZE FILE PHOTO, BOTTOM: JACOB WEINHEIMER / THE BREEZE

Not only does Copper Beech have plenty of amenities, it has a variety of floor plans as well.



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Walk in the park

Shenandoah National Park boasts more than 500 miles of overlooks and mountain peaks to bring nature lovers together

PHOTOS BY TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

The national park includes Hawksbill Mountain, which has a summit of 4,049 feet above sea level.

By JAMIE GRAEFF
contributing writer

With 516 miles of trail, 75 overlooks, 60 mountain peaks and 90 streams, there's always something new to see at Shenandoah National Park.

Frank Gebhard, a senior biology major, has visited the park nearly 30 times. The avid backcountry camper says the best hike he's planned in Shenandoah was a 40-mile trip stretching from Little Stony Man to Abbey Creek overlook. The trip lasted five days and

four nights. For small-scale trips, Gebhard recommends Bearfence Mountain.

"Bearfence has a lot of bouldering, like rock climbing. And there's an awesome lookout at the end," Gebhard said. "It's a little bit challenging but it's not impossible for a beginner."

If Gebhard visits the park for a day trip, he'll bring a jacket depending on the weather, water and a snack. If he plans an overnight trip, he'll also throw in his helmet, an extra set of clothes, a hammock, camping stove, coffee presser, rain jacket and a knife.

His favorite time of day to hike is during sunset. For evening hikes, he recommends Hawksbill Mountain — the highest peak within Shenandoah sitting 4,049 feet above sea level.

Maddy Williams, a 2017 JMU alumna and photographer, planned a Shenandoah engagement photo session at Timber Hollow overlook during September 2018 at golden hour. She chose Timber Hollow because of the alluring views of the mountain range and the open quarry to walk around.

"[Shenandoah National Park] is absolutely

stunning on its own," Williams said. "I really didn't need to do anything else from my end of the camera to capture all its beauty."

Park visitation has increased following Shenandoah's 2016 centennial, former park ranger and current Public Relations Coordinator Sally Hurlbert said. Hurlbert, who's worked for Shenandoah for 23 years, says she loves hiking, taking people out, showing them the rocks, telling them the stories and seeing the light bulb in their head go off.

see [SHENANDOAH](#), page 16

Slice, slice, baby

Ranking the top six pizza slices at Harrisonburg's Benny Sorrentino's

By DEVIN TOWNSEND
The Breeze

Benny Sorrentino's is known for its enormous slices that extend over two paper plates and their signature specials. In the last six years, they have won best pizza in Harrisonburg and have just closed in on its seventh. As a place with affordable slices for college students, Benny's is highly praised at JMU. For those looking to try Benny's for the first time, or longtime customers looking to branch out from their usual tastes, here are the top-six slices at Benny's.

PHOTOS BY TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

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6.

The Angry Dwarf

Pasta lovers, this is the pizza for you. Each bite is fully loaded with a creamy garlic pesto sauce and red peppers. The first few bites are filling and packed with rich flavor. As customers get deeper in the slice, the taste may start to become overbearing and too filling. But for those who absolutely love peppers on pizza, this piece is perfect for you.

5.

Sweet Sliced Sausage

If you're looking for a sausage that's sweet but isn't overbearing, look no further. Cut in thinly sliced round portions, the sausage delivers big flavors that complement the sauce and cheese. After each bite of this Italian slice, you're enticed to reach out for more.



4.

Cheese

Coming in with one of the greatest combinations in the history of food is the classic cheese pizza. This piece is the cheapest on Benny's menu at \$4. It's a simple but delicious slice of pizza that satisfies with every bite — it's the perfect foldable slice with the right amount of crisp in the crust.



3.

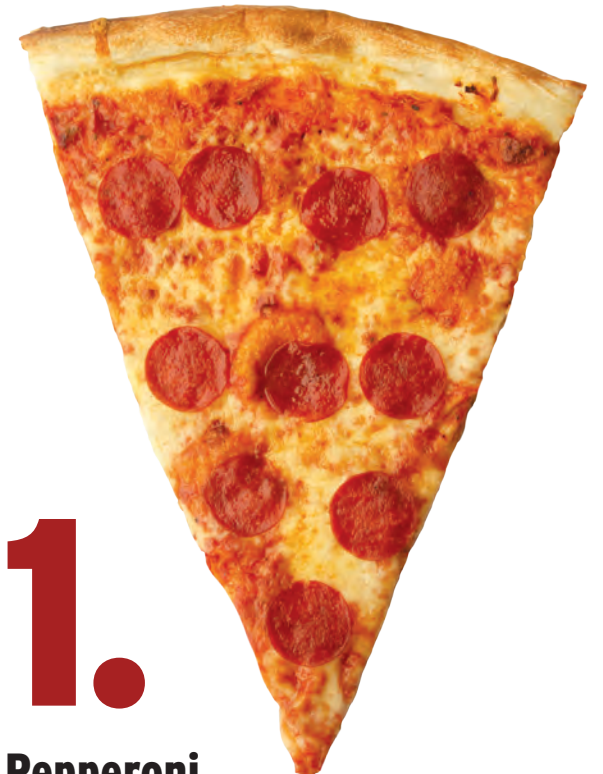
The Road Runner

This unique take on a Mexican-style pizza is sweet with a small kick that isn't too overbearing. The balance between the chipotle pesto chicken, corn and black beans allows for the flavors of the Southwest to flourish. Although it may seem like too much to eat on a single slice, there's a perfect balance of spice, heat and flavor.

2.

Sriracha Sausage

Those who love sausage and sriracha might believe this pizza brings the best of both worlds. The sriracha adds a subtle spiciness that doesn't overpower the slice but keeps the perfect amount of heat in your mouth. It blends with the sauce and allows your taste buds to focus on the sausage. If you're looking to eat an extra fiery pizza, add hot sauce and red pepper flakes for some kick.



1.

Pepperoni

For pizza lovers around Harrisonburg, this slice is the best deal you could ask for. The size alone is enough to make any food lover's mouth water. The beauty of this slice is in the simplicity: There's no need for anything extra, just pepperoni. The crust is crispy on the outside while doughy on the inside — a single bite gives you everything expected and more. The only way to make this slice better is to add red pepper flakes, parmesan cheese and hot sauce.

CONTACT Devin Townsend at towns2dm@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.

SHENANDOAH | National park provides adventurous outlet for residents



PHOTOS BY TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

Along Skyline Drive, visitors can encounter 53 species of mammals and 200 species of birds.

from page 13

“Some of these rocks are over a million years old,” Hurlbert said. “There’s a spectacular formation maybe a mile off of Skyline Drive on the north bend.”

Aside from being able to view the exquisite rock formations, Shenandoah National Park visitors are also likely to see some of the 53 species of mammals, 24 species of amphibians or 200 species of birds throughout the park.

Gebhard also reported seeing a couple bears, chipmunks and even a mountain lion. Instead of listening to music while he’s hiking, Gebhard prefers to “hear the nature” and take in the sounds of the birds around him.

The most visited waterfall in the park is Dark Hollow Falls. Risk-takers like Gebhard have taken a ride down its natural waterslides, but Hurlbert recommends visitors enjoy the falls by playing in the waist-deep water rather than climbing the slippery rocks.

For those who prefer going on evening hikes to stargaze, Hurlbert recommends climbing to viewpoints like the top of Hawksbill or Little Stony Man — just don’t forget a flashlight, she says. For a more open location that doesn’t require hiking, Big Meadows recreational area is the perfect pull-off destination.

It’s important that visitors practice the Leave No Trace method, Hurlbert said. The Leave No Trace method is an outdoor ethics code for preventing and minimizing recreational impact on the environment and surrounding wildlife. Shenandoah National Park rangers have noticed increased trampling of vegetation on trails and an influx of trash throughout the park.

“[Shenandoah National Park] is an area that shouldn’t be taken for granted,” Williams said. “All the beautiful mountains and quarries, we need to keep them just as they were left.”

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Jenna Polk encourages her employees to think outside the box when completing projects.

'Unsung hero'

Media specialist awarded best staffer for inspiring student employees

By **BRIDGET MURPHY**
The Breeze

Media specialist Jenna Polk ('14) was voted as JMU's best staffer due to her lasting impact on her student employees and the educational environment at JMU. With six student employees working under Polk to add insight and complete projects, each coming from the School of Media Arts and Design, she attributes the recognition of best staffer to these students and calls them her motivation to help create media for others.

Professors and instructors often use instructional and educational videos, PowerPoints and other media in their classroom, and Polk leads the design of these media projects. According to Educational Technology Instructor within the JMU libraries, Ivan Guadarrama, Polk has impacted each area of expertise throughout the university.

"She contributes so much to the university, but nobody really gets to see that," Guadarrama said. "She's worked with almost every single college at the university, and she's helped them produce educational videos from two minutes all the way to hour sessions. The majority of the education videos coming out the university, she's had a connection to it in

some way. She's just an unsung hero."

In addition to completing work through the different sectors of education at JMU, Polk assigns her student employees a weekly or twice-weekly project that's related to the other work they're completing at the time. According to Mina Elizabeth, a senior SMAD major, Polk pushes them to think outside of the box and be creative to improve their skills.

"Jenna is very personable. As a boss, she knows when it's time to get things done, but I can also laugh with her," Elizabeth said. "She's just a great person to know and really funny in her own way. She talks to us, communicates with us, asks us what we think about projects or how we think it can be improved. She allows us to put our creative thought into each project, which is really nice. Jenna definitely has challenged me to expand on the skills that I had previously."

Polk works in the Innovation Services department of JMU Libraries, similar to the work she accomplished during her college career at JMU. From 2013-14, she was a student employee in the now-renamed Center for Instructional Technology, sparking her interest for helping faculty and staff throughout JMU. Shortly after graduating, Polk knew she wanted to stay at the university.



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Polk and her team of students work on projects for many different sectors of the JMU community, including JMU Libraries and Health Services.

"I jumped on it (working at JMU) because I knew I loved the atmosphere, I loved the school, I loved everything that the libraries stood for and how they helped everyone," Polk said. "I just knew I would be happy here. JMU is just awesome. No matter what tough time JMU may bring, the atmosphere and students draw you in because they are inviting and want to show the best of JMU no matter what."

Polk and her team have worked on many projects over the years, such as the "You are Welcome Here" video for JMU Libraries and the "I Love JMU Libraries" promotion video. She has also worked with Health Services, Nursing, Foreign Language, Writing Rhetoric and Technical Communication and Diversity Training to create informative media.

"I work with a lot of faculty and staff all

across JMU," Polk said. "It's just amazing because I don't know anything they're talking about or teaching but I can bring my expertise and help enhance their course. Being able to work with a lot of different projects and with a bunch of different people and collaborating with them is just really awesome."

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Polk gives her students projects weekly or twice-weekly to help improve their multimedia skills.

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